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Marcos links opponents to communists and U.S.

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MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand E. Marcos accused his political opponents yesterday of being in league with both a communist insurgency and the United States.

He suggested — without evidence — that his newly united opponents, Corazon C. Aquino and Salvador "Doy" Laurel, and their supporters were "operating and cooperating with leftist subversives."

Along with them, Mr. Marcos listed the Americans as being among those who were out to do him in, hinting that the Central Intelligence Agency and the communist New People's Army were in cahoots.

"Are we not facing an insurgency?" he asked at a campaign rally in the city of Lipa. "The whites [Americans] tell me I should do this and that about the insurgency. I answer that we have defeated the communists twice. I tell the whites to leave us alone. We do not even know if they are helping the NPA."

He suggested — again without offering evidence — that the CIA was simultaneously financing both a clean-government group seeking to monitor the elections and a corrupt practice common in Philippine politics of paying "flying voters" to vote dozens of times on election day.

Mr. Marcos predicted that if Filipino voters committed the "error" of voting him out of office, the nation would face a decade of instability and turmoil.

"We are due for perhaps 10 years of instability in the Philippines that may be worse than the present kind of bloodshed." If the opposition wins the proposed Feb. 7 elections, Mr. Marcos said on a campaign swing to Batangas Province, south of Manila.

He estimated "the present kind of bloodshed" to have resulted in 10,000 civilian deaths this year at the hands of guerrilla insurgents of the New People's Army — a figure almost twice as high as the combined total of deaths among civilians, government soldiers and New People's Army rebels cited by his

own military.

The 68-year-old Mr. Marcos is under severe pressure from the United States to counter the growing communist insurgency by reforming his 20-year-old regime and checking some of the abuses by the Philippine armed forces. In part to answer this criticism, he has called for a special "snap election" at what he says is a "critical and historical" period in the nation's history.

He is facing a strong challenge from an opposition ticket headed by Mrs. Aquino, widow of the assassinated Benigno S. Aquino Jr., and Mr. Laurel, her vice-presidential running mate. Yesterday, Mr. Marcos said he would attack neither Mrs. Aquino nor Mr. Laurel — the first because she was a lady and the second because of old family debts. He then assailed them both.

He said Mrs. Aquino had "threatened" to put him on trial for the murder of her husband, who at the time of his murder two years ago was Mr. Marcos' chief political rival. Twenty-five members of the Philippine armed forces, including one of Mr. Marcos' most trusted aides, were tried for conspiracy to assassinate Mr. Aquino but were acquitted earlier this month in a widely criticized verdict.

"If she talks like this, my followers will go to war with hers," Mr. Marcos said. "A vengeful candidate is not a good candidate."

Mr. Marcos said the opposition would, if elected, launch a purge of both the armed forces and local government officials beholden to his ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party.

"We will have instability here," as various factions seek to settle old scores, he said.

It is doubtful whether the president takes his anti-American charges very seriously. Traditionally, he has found it convenient to run against the United States in his campaigns, perhaps to counter leftist claims that the country is under a

"U.S.-Marcos dictatorship."

However, he is clearly beginning to resent American pressures more and more. On Friday, he met with a group of staffers from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who were in the Philippines to monitor preparations for the snap election. At the same time, pro-government newspapers have been increasing their criticism of what is viewed here as American meddling in Filipino politics.